

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 20 are canceled, claims 22-26 are added and claims 9-13, 19 and 21 are amended. Accordingly, claims 9-13, 19 and 21-26 are pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that U.S. Patent No. 6,415,439 to Randell et al. (hereinafter "Randell") and U.S. Patent No. 5,299,125 to Baker et al. (hereinafter "Baker"), either alone or in permissible combination do not disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 19 and 21. The term "whacking" is defined in the specification on page 24 as applying "an accelerative or deaccelerative force to one or more subregions of the device such that said subregions contact or are contacted by an external object, causing an equal and opposite countering force." This definition is consistent with that given by the American Heritage College Dictionary (Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1993) as "to strike with a sharp blow." Nowhere in Randell is it disclosed that the deformable piece is "struck with a sharp blow" to provide a morpheme input to the central processing unit.

Claim 21 recites "deforming a deformable piece of material connected to a hand-held computing device to provide a first electro-physical morpheme to the device without pushing buttons." This feature is also not disclosed or suggested in Randell, as the deformable piece, i.e., the doll, is not connected to the controller 10. Although a mouse may be connected to controller 10, the inputs to the mouse are provided by pushing buttons on the mouse.

New claim 24 recites "orienting a deformable piece of a hand-held computing device, relative to an external object, to provide a first electro-physical morpheme input to the device." Applicants submit that this feature is not disclosed or suggested in Randell or Baker.

New claim 25 recites "manipulating a deformable piece of material applied to a surface of a hand-held computing device." Applicants submit that this feature is not disclosed

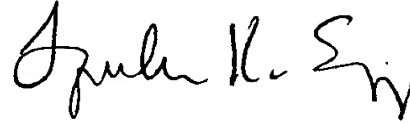
or suggested in Randell or Baker. In particular, Randell does not disclose this feature, because neither the doll nor the mouse is applied to a surface of the hand-held computing device.

Accordingly, independent claims 19, 21, 24 and 25 are patentable over the combination of applied references. Claims 9-13 and 26 depend from claim 25, and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 25, as well as for the additional features they recite. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21, and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 21, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 9-13, 19 and 21-26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jaquelin K. Spong
Registration No. 52,241

JAO:JKS/scg

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
RCE Transmittal Letter
Amendment Transmittal Letter

Date: August 23, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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